



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 24, 2016
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan Whalen

Senate Bill No. 139 (Raised) – AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding **Raised Senate Bill No. 139 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP.** The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

We appreciate the Committee's willingness to introduce this bill at the request of the DEEP. This proposal, which we strongly support, would provide a mechanism for the establishment of a trout stamp, should one be desired in the future to aid in supporting recreational fishing programs. Trout would be added to the list of game animals (currently salmon, pheasant, turkey and migratory game birds) in section 26-48a of the General Statutes for which permits, tags or stamps and associated fees may be established by regulation.

Seven of the 13 Northeastern states including Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and New Jersey currently require anglers fishing for trout and/or salmon to possess such a tag or stamp in addition to holding a freshwater fishing license. Creating a \$5 trout stamp, for example, would generate between \$400,000 and \$500,000 per year in new revenue. As any establishment of a trout stamp would be done via a regulation proposal advanced by DEEP, it would be subject to both public review (public hearing and comment period) and legislative review through the Legislative Regulations Review Committee.

In summary, DEEP strongly supports **Senate Bill No. 139 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH A TROUT STAMP** as it would provide a framework for establishing a new revenue source should one be required at some future time.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov.